



Light Shining in Darkness

by Barry H. Downing, PhD

With the Christmas season approaching, I thought it would be interesting to offer a feature with a religious theme. And who better to write it than minister and scientist Dr. Barry H. Downing? Happily for me, Dr. Downing agreed and sent this original essay by return mail.

Dr. Downing is currently pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Endwell, New York. He received a bachelor's degree in physics from Hartwick College, his bachelor's of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his doctorate from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he specialized in the relation between natural science and Christian theology. In 1968, he wrote *The Bible and Flying Saucers*—published first by J. B. Lippincott and later by Avon Books, Sphere Books, and Berkley Books. A FUFOR board member and consultant for MUFON for almost 25 years, he has published papers in MUFON's *International UFO Symposium Proceedings* in 1972, '73, '74, '81, '91, and '94.

Dr. Downing's perspective on the UFO phenomenon has changed dramatically over the years, but his basic thesis—the possibility that UFOs carry “angels” of God and that these angels have been active in developing biblical religion—remains unaltered. In the article that follows, Dr. Downing discusses his current beliefs about the relation of UFOs and religion. —Editor

During the Christmas season, those who are Christians, and also interested in UFOs, undoubtedly go through a time of spiritual trial and wonder that others do not.

In my book *The Bible and Flying Saucers*, chapter four, I explore events like the Star of Bethlehem and the angelic appearances to the shepherds announcing the birth of Jesus as possible UFO events. These suggestions are not unique to my point of view. As early as 1956, M. K. Jessup, in his book *UFO and the Bible*, made these kinds of connections. It has been my experience that when some Christians connect UFOs and their religion, their faith grows stronger. For others, it blows their faith apart. But the religious dimension to UFOs does not live in a closet.

As UFOs often hover in the sky, the religious dimension of UFOs has hovered over our largely secular and scientific attempts to figure out what UFOs are.

We *would* know what UFOs are—so the scientists in us think—if we could measure

enough landing traces or get enough good photographs, or if we interviewed enough witnesses, especially abduction victims. Or—if we cannot find out because our science is poorly funded—then the government, which is not poorly funded, must know. Someday, it will leak. *Then* we will know. Sometime, either private or government science will tell us the truth about UFOs... a day of revelation will come, and science will be the voice on that day.



But the religious dimension hovers over all this, casts its shadow of doubt, and says, “Maybe you have too much confidence in your science, in your ability to understand a Higher Reality.”

A Shepherd Out in His Field

I own a herd of beef cattle. (This is my third career, my first being Presbyterian ministry, my second, UFOs.) My cows live on a farm about 20 miles from me, so I see them only about

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Worth Repeating

A Digest of Ideas from Researchers, Enthusiasts, Buffs, Kooks, Skeptics, Debunkers, and Others

Out of the Loop!

“As far as I know, an alien spacecraft did not crash in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947,” Clinton said, drawing laughter and perhaps a bit of puzzlement from the throng in the plaza before Belfast City Hall. Ryan apparently had asked about an alleged incident that is the rage among space alien devotees.... “And Ryan,” the President added (in keeping with the spirit of the youngster’s letter), “if the United States Air Force did recover alien bodies, they didn’t tell me about it, either, and I want to know.” —President Clinton, in response to a teenager in Belfast, *Houston Chronicle*, 12/1/95

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Worth Repeating

An Awkward Problem

"To put it plainly, UFOs have turned out to be a very awkward problem for Jewish and Christian leaders. For the most part, religious leaders have been busy with other matters, hoping the UFO problem will go away. In the meantime, as Jacques Vallee has well argued, UFOs are busy changing our belief systems about ourselves and our place in the universe, whether we like it or not." —Barry H. Downing, PhD, introduction to the Berkley edition of *The Bible and Flying Saucers*, 1989

Like Flies on the Ceiling

"What about the debunkers? Whether our skeptical scientific colleagues like it or not, the UFO phenomenon is important because it forces us to ask, who are *we*? Where do *we* come from? Who else is around? What is reality anyway? Unless they help us address this eternal quest, what the skeptics say and do is irrelevant. . .

"I am again reminded of the words of William Erwin Thompson: "We are like flies crawling across the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. We cannot see what angels and gods lie underneath the threshold of our perceptions. We do not live a reality—we live in our paradigms, our habituated perceptions, our illusions. The illusions we share through culture, we call reality. But the true historical reality of our condition is invisible to us." —Jacques Vallee, Oct. 7, UFO Experience Conference, North Haven, CT

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UFOs in Cyberspace: Part 1

Traveling the Dark, Lonely Internet

by Gayle Nesom and Rebecca Schatte, with contributions by David E. Wachenschwanz

Did you know that by using your personal computer and a modem, you can connect to dozens of UFO-related electronic bulletin board systems all over the world? Or that the Internet can take you to computer systems and users all over the world in search of UFO information?

It's true. And it's a lot easier to do than you might think.

Bulletin board systems, commercial online services like America Online (AOL), and the Internet all *can* be (and eventually *will* be) interconnected so that you can dial a local number to your favorite BBS, send e-mail to another user on the BBS, post a public message in one of the international FidoNet echos, telnet out of the BBS via the Internet to a computer system at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, do a "who is" for Bob Lazar, and find out that no such person exists at Los Alamos.

But first things first—you have to learn to drive before you can travel the roads. Let's look briefly at the basics.

The Internet

The Internet is an electronic network accessed by computer modem over the phone lines. It is the superhighway to cyberspace. To reach UFO cyberspace (road maps to follow), most people just hook their home computer into the phone line. (For the really devoted, a dedicated modem line may become necessary to keep you from tying up your home phone.) Once you are on the Internet, you can link up to anyone in the world who is also online. And except for your monthly access fee (your highway toll), which costs from \$10 to \$20 a month, the calls

cost you little or nothing, depending on the provider you choose.

Commercial Online Services

Private "gateway" companies—America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe, and Internet service providers—are your on-ramp to the highway. The three major companies—and MSN, the new MicroSoft Network—make getting on easy and provide lots of first-class extras (news, sports, bulletin boards, e-mail, etc.), while the local access companies just get you there—no frills. If you are trying to decide between America Online and CompuServe, we advise AOL. Besides being simpler to use, it is home to *Omni* magazine, "Sightings," and ISCNI (see *Houston Sky* issues 2 and 7). In AOL, key words ("OMNI," "Sightings," "ISCNI," and "UFO") will take you to these areas. CompuServe, on the other hand, offers the Encounters Forum, which is MUFON's online area. Use Go "MUFON" to get there.

Bulletin Board Systems

A BBS is usually a limited network, often free. Picture a traditional bulletin board, the kind that hangs in an office near the coffee machine. On it, you can post memos, trade messages, and pin up jokes and photographs. An electronic BBS works the same way. In Houston, the BBS of choice is the Atomic Cafe. Besides providing a list of all local BBSs, the Atomic Cafe provides free access to hundreds of FidoNet echos. For a small annual subscription, you can also access Internet newsgroups and use the Atomic Cafe as your Internet service provider.

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once a week. During pasture season, I rotate them weekly from one pasture to another. I do this by simply calling them. They know my voice...they come when I call.

I often think about my cows and their relation to me as I think about our relation to the UFO reality. (And here, my concern in not cattle mutilations, though I think Linda Moulton Howe has done important work.)

Probably my cows know I exist. At the same time, though, they do not have an epistemology that asks the question, how do we know that anything really exists? What is the difference between fact, opinion, and myth? Although cows may not ask these philosophical questions, if they see me arrive to fix the fence, they come near and watch—hopeful that I will soon open a new gate and a new pasture for them.

When David wrote Psalm 23—himself having been a shepherd before becoming king—he wrote, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.” The shepherd owns his sheep, his cows. He has plans for them. Yet, how much do they really know about the shepherd?

My cows have no idea that I live 20 miles from them. Like a UFO, I show up, hover briefly, open a gate, then fly away. They have no idea I am a Presbyterian minister, am married, have three children, and write UFO articles. I do not know if cows have anything like what we would call cow science, but even if they did, I don’t think even the best cow science would figure out all of the above about me. And even if they could figure it out, what would it mean to them? If my cows were somehow able to capture me and my car and turn their cow science loose on me and my car, what would they really end up knowing about me?

It is as I ask these questions that I find myself wondering about the limits of our science and our human ability to know and understand the UFO reality, a reality that in a sense we are still trying to prove exists. To some extent, our ability to understand UFOs hinges on two things. First, how much “higher” than we are is the UFO reality, from an intellectual and spiritual point of view? As much higher as we are above cows? Or higher? And second, how determined is the UFO reality to communicate knowledge of itself to us? For instance, if I could figure out a way to become incarnate as a cow, then I might be able to communicate much of my human self to cows in their own language (or system of reality). I cannot do that, of course, but the Christian argument is that Jesus is the incarnation of the

Divine reality, that God became man, that he is the ultimate in Divine communication. That is why Christians celebrate Christmas. As John’s Gospel says of Jesus, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4, 5).

Who Are These Guys? Some Religious Answers

For nearly 50 years, the light of UFOs has been shining in our darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it. At the same time, we have not been able to comprehend the light. Who are these guys? What do they want?

Even from a religious point of view, or a scientific point of view that incorporates the religious, there have been many answers. Too many answers. Scientists like Carl Sagan and Donald Menzel have been happy to call UFOs a religious expression of human longing for the transcendent. They do not think UFOs really exist in any metaphysical sense but represent what Swiss psychologist C. G. Jung calls technological angels. We have created UFOs, they say, because science has destroyed the old religion, with its angels and demons. UFOs allow us to bring angels and demons back through the door of scientific respectability.

Writing from a religious perspective, theologians Robert Ellwood and Ted Peters have argued the mythological view of UFOs very well—Peters in his book *UFOs: God’s Chariots?*

A second point of view, my own, argued in *The Bible and Flying Saucers* as well as in articles like “The God Hypothesis” (*MUFON Journal*, October 1988), is that UFOs are as “real” as the rest of our reality and that they are *the cause* of the Biblical religion, and perhaps of other world religions. Richard L. Thompson, in his book *Alien Identities*, takes what I believe is a scientific view of UFOs similar to my own and applies that view to Hindu religious literature. Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack, MD, argues in his book *Abduction* that we need an Eastern point of view to understand UFOs, that our Western scientific world view is not working. His mix of Eastern spirituality and UFOs undoubtedly helped make the Harvard faculty uncomfortable with his work.

Thus, for Thompson, Mack, and me, there is a growing sense that the UFO reality has shaped the development of religion and culture on earth as we know it. This goes against the grain of secular science, which says life on earth, and humanity in particular, simply evolved out of a cosmic swamp. I use the word “shaped” to suggest that although the UFO reality influences

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Deep-Throat

Unsubstantiated-but-Persistent Rumors From the UFO Grapevine

During an October 11 half-time show at the Colorado Springs military academy, a triangular UFO was said to have flown into the stadium and to have hovered 200 feet off the ground. Though several people reported hearing about the incident on the radio, **DT** can find no mention of this event in print—not even in the sports section! And there’s more: the Thunderbirds, scheduled to perform, were no-shows at the event. **DT** is still sniffing out the story.

DT hears that a noted ufologist is researching the autopsy video’s medical instruments, checking patents. Said researcher claims he’s turned up some choice finds, such as that fact that some of the instruments were not patented until the early ’60s. No doubt more will be forthcoming on this.

And speaking of autopsies, Fox has gotten such good mileage out of their redundant “Fact or Fiction” specials that a series by the same name (groan) is now in the works. It supposedly will deal with all aspects of the UFO phenomenon, not just autopsies. **DT** is pretty relieved to hear that.

Finally, Colin Andrews’ Great Big Event, which he claimed would happen in Madison Square Garden on November 19, *happened*. However, according to sources who attended, there was no Mystery Guest and no Great Announcement. So much for truth in advertising. But if you fell for Colin’s story, **DT** has a lovely ski resort for sale here in Houston...◆

UFO Notebook

by Bill Eatwell

In the last issue, I introduced physicist Alan C. Holt to the followers of this column. I will begin my review of his work by describing Alan's hyperfield resonance theory.

Alan Holt's theory describes a model that uses "projective, nonlinear mathematics to describe interactions between energy patterns in space-time and energy patterns in a seven dimensional hyperspace.* The model suggests that technology using pulsating electromagnetic field patterns in conjunction with boundary and structural materials with specific crystalline forms could be used to initiate large, local changes in gravitational fields."

*(Hyperspace: (1) Webster's definition: In mathematics, space consisting of four or more dimensions. (2) In the highly acclaimed book *Hyperspace* by Michio Kaku, professor of theoretical physics, Kaku states that "hyperspace is the term popularly used when referring to higher dimensions, and hyper- is the correct scientific prefix for higher-dimensional geometric objects." (3) It is also a theory that states that dimensions exist beyond the accepted four of space (length, width and breadth, and one of time).

Much of Alan's advanced propulsion research is currently proprietary and unpublished. It was in 1979 when he first published his concept on an advanced propulsion system based on the resonant interaction between pulsed patterns of electromagnetic fields and a proposed hyperfield structure of space-time. As illustrated by

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human culture, at the same time, we seem to have a great deal of independence from the UFO reality. The UFO reality drops a religious pebble in our pond (or swamp), and the ripples spread. But life in the pond goes on. By and large, life in the pond can ignore the ripples if it chooses.

A third religious point of view also sees UFOs as real—but evil, or demonic. Writers like Clifford Wilson and John Weldon have, from a Christian fundamentalist perspective, argued that UFOs are the power of the devil let loose on our time to make us repent before the second coming of Christ. Some UFO abduction stories, which sound like extraterrestrial rape, give a lot of credibility to the demonic argument. I have made an extensive summary of the demonic viewpoint in my article "Demonic Theory of UFOs" (*The Encyclopedia of UFOs*, edited by Ronald D. Story, 1980, p. 99 ff.).

A fourth perspective takes a New Age approach to religion and UFOs. This view often blends several world religions—Eastern and Western—with the spiritual (as opposed to biological) doctrine of evolution, to say that UFOs are a sign that humankind is moving to a higher level of consciousness. This view was discussed by Kenneth Ring in his book *The Omega Project: Near Death Experiences, UFO Encounters, and Mind at Large*. (Maurice Rawlings, MD, counters Ring's optimism, using similar near-death experience stories to write his book *To Hell and Back*.)

On top of all these different points of view, we have to deal with stories of direct religious revelation. Some of these stories are credible, some are not, in my opinion. One contact story I do not believe is that of Claude Vorilhon "Rael," author of *The Message Given to Me by Extraterrestrials: They Took Me to Their Planet*. I cannot prove Rael's story is not true, but I don't believe it. (The fact that I don't believe Rael but cannot "prove" him wrong makes me more patient with others who cannot believe my point of view.)

The Light Behind a Closed Door

But at the same time, Raymond E. Fowler's

long work with Betty Andreasson, beginning with *The Andreasson Affair*, and now having progressed all the way to *The Watchers II*, is, in my opinion, worthy of serious religious study. But like Rael's story, I also cannot prove the Andreasson story is true. There is much about it that seems authentic, but it only "sees through a glass darkly." Betty Andreasson is taken by a UFO to a world where there is a door, and we want her to reveal to us what is behind that door. But she can't and she won't. Raymond Fowler has spent years trying to pry the door open. It won't open.

I suspect this is the essence of the religious UFO message.

Someone or somebody is there. That Someone is very powerful. That Someone understands human values and the human unconscious as well as its conscious self very well—so well that it can create realities in our mind, realities that seem as real to us as the rest of creation, the rest of our normal human encounter with life. But at the same time, Betty knows that this Reality, this Someone, is different. Seriously different from us. More powerful, so powerful as to fill her soul

**"You see the earth
as a bright blue and white
Christmas tree ornament
in the black sky.**



**It's so small and so fragile—
You realize that on that small spot
is everything that means anything
to all of history and art
and death and birth and love."**

**—Russell Schweikart, astronaut, on seeing
the earth from space**

with unbelievable fear. When Abraham had a close encounter with God, the basic experience was fear. "As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abraham; and lo, a dread and great darkness fell upon him (Genesis 15:12). When Abraham met God, it was not a joyful New Age experience. When shepherds in the darkness at Christmas saw a great light and heard voices, "they were filled with fear" (Luke 2:9).

Whenever I attend a film in which the alien first appears, or the UFO comes into view, the hair on the back of my neck rises. I can feel it. Although not always, fear is often the most basic emotion reported in close encounter cases. It would be my response. I do not want a close encounter experience, thank you. I am happy to hear the stories of others.

Our fear is a natural response to the un-

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Spotlight on Rebecca Schatte

Rebecca Schatte has emerged over the last few months as a tenacious and thorough researcher, particularly with respect to the Santilli film. A member of MUFON, a voracious reader of ufology, and a frequent attendee of UFO conferences, she has of late begun the arduous ascent from local "buff" (see "UFO Lingo," page 6) to respected researcher.

So, just who is Rebecca Schatte? Until a year or so ago, Rebecca was a Houston-area Realtor and a "passive" member of MUFON and other UFO groups. More recently, circumstances have enabled her to spend less time in real estate and more time in ufology. And she has definitely put in the time!

In addition to helping me start *Houston Sky*—she still contributes to and supports it—and writing Michael Lindemann's ISCNI "Media Watch" column, Rebecca spends countless hours chatting, surfing, and just plain lurking on the Internet. Thanks to her electronic connections, she usually has the latest information on the hottest topics. *Houston Sky* readers have benefited from this quick access—

and the Santilli mystery has had more than a few loose ends tied off as a result.

Rebecca is basically skeptical about the UFO phenomenon—and in my opinion open minded and fair. And though she can be impatient with those who are motivated by publicity or money, she is respectful of opposing viewpoints—if the person is sincere. (She and I sometimes take different sides of an issue, but we have learned to respect each other's views and have gained from our differences. Besides, the information she uncovers is almost always accurate—and her memory of what she hears and reads is impeccable!)

Over the last 10 months as the heated autopsy debate has swirled, Rebecca has eased from a fence-sitting stance (see article, page 7) to a pro-hoax position. The change has been gradual, based on a great deal of research, conversation, and deliberation. For those like me, who have less time to devote to UFO matters and thus must often count on others to do the investigating, I recommend that you listen to what Rebecca has to say.

—Gayle Nesom ♦

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known, to that which may be bigger than we are, and dangerous. But the word of the angels to the shepherds was "Be not afraid" (Luke 2:10).

I think this is where we are supposed to be headed. In a direction that says: UFOs are real—do not be afraid.

I do not know how we will reconcile the relation between UFOs and our many world religions. By and large, world religious leaders do not believe UFOs exist. If UFOs suddenly revealed their very existence openly, religious leaders, like Abraham and the shepherds, would be filled with fear.

They would not see UFOs as light shining in our darkness. Christian fundamentalists would remind us that the devil disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). Even Budd Hopkins would say that whoever they are, they are no friend of humanity. And I cannot prove that UFOs are not evil. They may be.

But from my point of view, UFOs are not destroying us. They are courting us... making themselves powerfully present to some, like Betty Andreasson, but sparing more of us the

encounter experience, the shock experience.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The light is shining in our darkness. Our first reaction is fear, but in time, we will move beyond fear, as have those like Jacques Vallee. We will move from fear to wonder. And as we wonder, we will have to wonder about humans in the past who have seen light in the sky, light shining in darkness, the "pillar of cloud and of fire" of the Exodus, the chariot of fire of Elijah, the angel light shining in darkness at Christmas.

As we wonder, we may dare hope that we humans are not some kind of cosmic accident. That we are here for a purpose. We cannot see, or—like my cows—perhaps our science cannot understand, the Truth and the Reality, behind the door Betty Andreasson has seen. But someday we shall see. And as we go through that door, we will move from our world of darkness to a world of light. When we make this move through the door, it will be a move planned for us humans from the foundation of the world.

That, for me, is the UFO light shining in our darkness. ♦

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both science fiction and science fact, for man to travel to the far reaches of the galaxy, survive, and return within his own lifetime, space travel will require overcoming the speed-of-light barrier. A solution to this perplexing travel problem may be in Alan's field resonance propulsion concept, where he states, "The resonance between pulsed, patterned fields activates or causes the initiation of a hyperfield current, which carries the spacecraft from one space-time point to a very distant space-time point. Travel time is effectively short and quite possibly instantaneous in some cases."

During the 1983 MUFON Conference in Pasadena, California, Alan presented a paper titled "UFO Propulsion: Pulsed Radiation and Crystalline Structure." In this monograph, the theory and creative thoughts leading to a unique propulsion concept began to take shape. Photomicrographs of several metallic samples purportedly recovered from UFOs were shown and discussed at length by Alan in his paper. The accompanying laboratory analysis of the two samples indicted that each had unique structural characteristics. One sample, with traces of iron, was aluminum of a very high state of purity not available during the time frame in which it was found. The other sample was a lusterless silver containing highly conductive, nonmetallic, six-sided crystals in spiral formations and stacks. I recall from my own UFO propulsion research that a sample of pure aluminum containing a nonmetallic matrix of 15

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Worth Repeating

Apple, Sagan Make Peace

"Apple Computer and astronomer Carl Sagan have reached an 'amicable' settlement over Apple's use of Sagan's name as an internal project code-name. When Sagan objected last year, Apple renamed the project 'BHA,' allegedly short for 'Butt-Head Astronomer.' Sagan then sued for defamation of character, lost the case and appealed. The settlement ends the legal wrangling, and both sides say they're happy." —*Wall Street Journal*, 11/16/95

Science, Art, Religion

"Without the perception of anomalies, there would be no science and no art. There wouldn't be any religion, either." —Jacques Vallee, Oct. 7, UFO Experience Conference, N. Haven, CT ♦

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micron glass spheres was recovered by a witness from a UFO that exploded over a lake. Alan writes, "What purposes are served by the atomic composition and crystalline lattice structures of these two samples? They are not the ordinary construction materials used in our own aircraft or spacecraft. Do they play a greater role in the propulsion system for UFOs than do our aircraft and spacecraft construction materials?"

Next: Alan Holt's hyperfield resonance theory continued

Comments regarding this column or UFO propulsion can be sent via e-mail to Beatwell@aol.com or in care of *Houston Sky*. ♦

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E-Mail

An e-mail message is a private note sent instantly from one person to another, often on a company BBS (in computerese, a local area network, or LAN). If you are an American Online user, for example, you can very easily send e-mail to another American Online user. But you can also send it to someone via CompuServe, in fact, to anyone in the world who has access to the Internet. You just have to know the correct e-mail address. On most systems, AOL, etc., you can choose the first part of your name, while the second part is provided by your online service. Names range from the obvious and easy to remember to the clever and obscure. As you might well imagine, if your name is Jim Johnson or Linda Jones, you're going to have to work a little harder to find an original e-mail address than will a Whitley Strieber or Stanton Friedman. We at *Houston Sky* access the Internet (and e-mail) through AOL. Naturally, the name "Houston Sky" was not already taken, so our online address is HoustonSky@aol.com. The extension (after the @) is provided by AOL. Universities use the extension "edu," and so on.

Echos

If you want your message to be public, that is, to be read by potentially hundreds of Internet travelers, you can send it out over an "echo." Think of an echo as Delta Air Lines' route system. Your message is echoed from BBS to BBS—airport to airport. Because an echo is not a direct link-up, as in an office network or with American Online, your message may take considerably longer and be bounced from one airport to another to reach its final destination.

What are echos and where do they come from? An echo is a message base found on a local BBS system. There are local echos, which never leave the local BBS, and international echos. The Fidonet echos, for instance, are actually a group of connected computers run by thousands of volunteers all over the world. A Fidonet echo resembles a neighborhood bar: everybody knows your name, the topics of conversation are very predictable, and although there will be squabbles, somebody (the moderator-bouncer) will see to it that really bad behavior is curbed. (Rarely is there a problem, however, since everyone is there to share information and exchange ideas.) For UFO cyberspace travelers, Fidonet has lots of offerings: the Fidonet UFO Echo, the Fidonet Odyssey Fringe Science Research Network (BAMA), the Fidonet Meta UFO Echo, the Fidonet-Nightshift UFO Echo, the Fidonet I-UFO Echo, and others. Let's say you have read in the *MUFON Journal* about the July 1995 Aerolineas Argentinas UFO sighting and you want to follow up. If you posted a request for information on a Fidonet echo, within days, you could have messages from all over the world.

In Part 2, we'll introduce you to chat sessions and forums, news groups, the Web, and lots of specific destinations. We'll also take you on a wild ride through cyberspace to see what's happening on different threads. So get your new Christmas computer up and running—and get ready for the sights of UFO cyberspace.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about finding something in UFO cyberspace, we welcome you to contact Rebecca Schatte at HoustonSky@aol.com. ♦

Oops! In a recent issue of *Houston Sky*, I invited readers to write for a longer version of the June/July "NASA Moon Photos" article. Several of you did, and I am sorry to say that I have misplaced your names. If you will remind me (phone, fax, mail, or e-mail), I will be happy to mail that out immediately. Sorry! —Editor

UFO LINGO

If you are avidly interested in the UFO phenomenon but are not a researcher, what are you? A UFO buff? A UFO enthusiast? A space alien devotee (see WR, page 1)?! If you can think of a better term, we'd like to hear it!

"...here and there a touch of good grammar for picturesqueness." —Mark Twain

Santilli Circus Fence-Sitter No More!

by Rebecca Schatte

In the last issue of *Houston Sky*, my cyber-friends Glenn Joyner, Bill Ralls, and I wrote the "Alien Autopsy Circus." As the deadline approached for that article, revelations and events involving the film were happening at a fast and furious pace, not unlike a three-ring circus. As the day of the deadline arrived, Glenn, Bill, and I were still sitting on the fence trying to figure out which side we were on. I will not attempt to speak for them, but I have clearly jumped off the fence and landed on the side of those who consider the film a hoax. I have no other choice.

First, though Mr. Santilli has had ample opportunity to have his film authenticated, he has not found it necessary since *he* is "convinced of its reality." This should be a red flag to everyone. But Mr. Santilli *has* been candid in at least one aspect of this deal—that to him it's a *deal*, just another way to make money. I don't have a problem with people making money. But imagine how much this film would be worth if authenticated! Then, think how much it would be worth if proven *not* to have been made in 1947 but in 1967. He might have a serious cash flow problem.

Second, the people involved in this film appear, for all intents and purposes, to be cheerleaders or puppets, just repeating the claims of Mr. Santilli. For instance, the film clip sent to film analyst Bob Shell for authentication lacked an edge code. Mr. Shell analyzed this strip and then stated what the edge code markings indicated. What he did *not* say was that the edge code markings he used to initially date his film strip were supplied to him by Ray Santilli. In essence, Mr. Santilli dictated to Bob Shell what the edge codes were since Mr. Shell's strip had no code. Is that any way to date a film? Mr. Shell's film evaluation would lead one to believe that there has been some scientific scrutiny of the film strips. But that is simply not true. There has been no chemical evaluation of the film. Mr. Shell reached his conclusion that the strip must have had an acetate propionate base by the way the film *smelled*, which—according to Mr. Shell—was like vinegar.

Third, a Kodak representative has confirmed that Kodak has been told repeatedly that film is on its way for analysis to the Rochester headquarters, yet as of December 17, this representative says no autopsy footage has been turned over for analysis. Interestingly, since July, Kodak's requirements to authenticate the film have changed considerably. It is my opinion that Kodak has become more specific in their requirements because they want to be sure that what they authenticate actually comes from the autopsy footage.

Here are a few other reasons for my non-fence-sitting position. To date, I have found no one who can claim to have seen actual 16mm film showing any frame that is clearly part of the autopsy sequence. Mr. Shell does have several frames of a doorway that do appear on the uncut footage

released by Ray Santilli. However, these frames are at the very beginning of the footage and are not part of any continuous length of film that shows in the remainder of the video; if there is 16mm film, that film would have been transferred to video by a separate company. So far, such a company has not been located. There has been a claim by Mr. Santilli and one by Bob Shell—who was repeating what Mr. Santilli told him—that one company or another transferred the film. However, checks with the companies named have proved these claims untrue. The story of how Mr. Santilli obtained the footage is currently unraveling. Jack Barnett is clearly a name that has been associated as the real cameraman's name since at least February, when I first heard it. And while a military cameraman by the name of Jack Barnett has *not* been found, a Jack Barnett closely matching Mr. Santilli's cameraman *has* been located; unfortunately, he died in 1967. This man lived in Cleveland, Ohio, was a photographer with Universal News, filmed Bill Haley, Pat Boone, and the then-unknown Elvis Presley, as did Mr. Santilli's supposed cameraman. *How many Jack Barnetts are there?* And how many excuses—and coincidences—are we expected to allow for Mr. Santilli and those surrounding this film?

I could go on about the inconsistencies and unverified claims, but I won't. Suffice it to say that for this investigator, the accumulated evidence paints a twisted scene.

I would dearly love to examine the video for technical details and have been criticized for not doing so. I have been criticized also for "attacking" the people closest to this film. Frankly, because no evidence has appeared that a real 16mm film exists, these are the only aspects of this mystery available to investigate. Without an actual film, it is pointless to examine a video. Instead, one looks to what can be verified. I look to the people who have associated themselves with this film. And I look at the statements they have made. These people, in my opinion, are *all over the map*. The stories appear to change from one moment to the next. How can I accept the claim that they have 16 mm footage showing an alien autopsy if their other claims are *incredible*? I can't.

At a recent conference in North Haven, Connecticut, I heard Jacques Vallee state, "All we have is an unverified video taken by an unknown cameraman." He was right. That is all we have. A video—not an actual film—made by people who have changed their stories and who have not been very forthcoming.

Until Kodak gets what they are requesting to date the film, there is no way I can accept this film as anything other than a pathetic hoax. Until some real analysis has begun, I don't see how I can believe anything else. ♦

HOUSTON SKY

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Houston Sky is published as a forum for the open exchange of ideas and information for Houston-area MUFON members and others. Because views within the UFO community are so varied, the opinions and observations expressed in *HS* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff or of other MUFON members.

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UFO Publications: Part 2

by Gayle Nesom

In the last issue of *Houston Sky*, I printed information about 10 privately published UFO newsletters and bulletins. Here are 13 more that you may want to consider adding to your list of reading matter.

Australian UFO Bulletin. PO Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia. Editor: Judith Magee, President, Victorian UFO Research Society (established 1957). Quarterly, 32 pages, \$20 foreign. Australian news, international reprints.

Case Briefs: MUFON Northern California Affiliate newsletter. PO Box 26585, San Francisco, CA 94126. Editor: Laura Steiger (415) 775-4579. Bimonthly (since 1994), 18 pages (varies), \$16/year (payable to MUFON Case Briefs). Cases, MUFON chapter news.

Flying Saucer Digest. UAPA, Box 347032, Cleveland, OH 44134. Editor: Allan J. Manak. Quarterly (131 issues), 8 pages, \$10/5 issues. General UFO info and organizational news about the UAPA (United Aerial Phenomenon Agency).

Magick Mirror—MUFON-NYC Newsletter. 511 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 173, New York, NY 10011. Editor: E. Macer-Story. Quarterly, 8 pages, \$10/year. Interesting, intelligent commentary by the editor on a range of UFO topics.

Michigan MUFON Newsletter. 3639 Stoneleigh Dr., Lansing, MI 48910. Editors: Bill & Linda Murphy, Michigan MUFON state co-directors. Monthly (4 issues), 13-18 pages, \$10 (payable to Michigan MUFON). Extensive coverage of Michigan MUFON events and sightings, reviews, reprints, interviews.

Minnesota MUFON Newsletter. 1834 N. Asbury St., Falcon Hts. MN 55113. Editor: Lynn Bell. Bimonthly (56 issues), 12 pages, \$12/year (payable to Lynn Bell). Minnesota MUFON news, interviews, reprints.

Opus Newsletter. PO Box 273273, Concord, CA 94527 (OPUS1@genie.geis.com). Editor: Gene

Lipson, MD, president of OPUS: Organization for Paranormal Understanding & Support (501) 684-2666). Quarterly (2 issues), 12-14 pages, \$35/year membership. Neutral perspective on para-normal experiences.

Saucer Smear. PO Box 1709, Key West, FL 33041. Editor: James W. Moseley. Unscheduled (Vol. 42, No. 10), 8 pages, cost not mentioned. Irreverent, fun, informative.

The New Ufologist. 71 Knight Ave., Canterbury, Kent CT2 8PY, England. Editorial board: Jenny Randles, Paul Fuller, others (fax: +44 1227 764589). Quarterly (since 1995), 32 pages, \$20/year for U.S.

UFO Encounters Magazine. Aztec Publishing, PO Box 1142, Norcross, GA 30091. Editor: Michael Norris (404) 923-7247. Bimonthly (since 1994), 30 pages, \$20/year. *MUFON Journal* lookalike; general UFO information.

UFO Newsclipping Service. Rt. 1, Box 220, Plumerville, AR 72127. Editor: Lucius Farish (who organizes excellent Ozarks UFO Conference). Monthly, 315 issues, 20 pages. \$55. Photocopied reprints of domestic and international newspaper articles; 4 pages of Fortean news. A must if you want to keep up with UFOs in small-town America.

UFO Times. 1 Woodland Dr., Batley, W. Yorks, WF17 7SW, England BUFORA@stairway.co.uk). Editor: Mike Wootten. Bimonthly (37 issues), 28-32 pages, cost not given. Publication of the British UFO Research Organization.

West Virginia UFO Newsletter. Headline Books, PO Box 52, Terra Alta, WV (TerraAlta@AOL.com). Editor: Bob Teets (304) 789-5951. Bimonthly (since 1994). 12 pages, \$16/year. MUFON-oriented; interesting, varied subject matter. ♦

Of Interest

Houston Area

VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team)

6:30 PM
Freeman Memorial Library
16602 Diana Lane, Clear Lake City

HUFON (Houston UFO Network)

First Friday of the Month, 7 PM
Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza
(713) 579-2834

Elsewhere

4th Annual Gulf Breeze UFO SpringConference

March 15-17
Clarion Suites Resort
Pensacola Beach, Florida
Contact Project Awareness:
(904) 432-8888 (#3)
Friedman, Strieber, Mack, Fiore,
Lindemann, Grosso, Barry Downing

1996 Ozarks UFO Conference

April 12-14
Inn of the Ozarks (*Fills up fast!!*)
Eureka Springs, Arkansas
\$35 advance; \$40 at the door
Speakers: Howe, Huneeus, Crawford,
Bob Shell, Yvonne Smith, Joe Lewells
Contact Lucius Farish (*new address*)
#2 Caney Valley Dr.
Plummerville, AR, 72127-8725
Phone: (501) 354-2558

MUFON UFO Hotline (800) UFO-2166

*"Science advances at
funerals." —Max
Planck, German
physicist (1858-1947)*

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